data amount control means for controlling a data amount of the image in accordance with a change of an environment in which the image is photographed, and

A22 Amdt.

transmission means for transmitting the image controlled by said data amount control means, and

said reception apparatus comprises,

reception means for receiving the image transmitted by said transmission means, and

display control means for causing predetermined display means to display the image received by said reception means.

A23

75. (Amended) A system according to claim 73, wherein the environment [in which the image is photographed is] includes a temperature.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims/Formal Matters

Claims 1 through 76 are pending. Claims 71 and 75 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Applicant has now amended these claims to address the Examiner's concerns as to formal matters. These amendments, not made for any reasons related to substantial patentability (§§ 102 and 103), are believed to place these claims in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's objections to the title and the specification, respectfully, have been addressed by the above amendments.

Claims 1 through 76 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,745,711 to Kitahara et al. ("Kitahara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,737,491 to Allen et al. ("Allen").

B. Claims 1 Through 76 Are Patentability Distinct From Kitahara And Allen, Alone Or In Combination

Kitahara discloses a system in which television conference is executed among plural terminals, and in particular, a voice of conference designated by a cursor is outputted from speaker 907 in plural windows, each of which indicates a different conference as shown in Fig. 30. That is, when it is desired that a noted image is enlarged or high resolution is obtained, a user must designate an arbitrary image to be operated. Accordingly, a process for the image cannot be determined according to the relationship with the voice transmitted from other transmission apparatuses.

Allen discloses multiple apparatuses of voice communication function and digital camera. More specifically, Allen discloses transmitting an image from digital camera 10 to image fulfillment server 34, transmitting the voice command and executing a remote control for the image (Table 1). That is, the structure of Allen is that a transmission terminal executes remote control for a process method of the image to be transmitted by the transmission apparatus. While the voice is used as media to execute a remote instruction, the voice is not information added to the image. Further, it is not

possible to determine the process for the image according to the relationship with the voice transmitted from other transmission apparatuses.

Accordingly, the combination of the Kitahara and Allen references does not suggest controlling displaying statuses of the images received from the plurality of transmission apparatuses and causing the predetermined display means to display the controlled images on the basis of voice transmitted by the plurality of transmission apparatuses. Further, the combination of references does not suggest that the reception apparatus returns the control information to the transmission apparatus.

In contrast, the invention of Claims 1, 24, 46, 49 recites a "control means for controlling display statuses of the images received from said plurality of transmission apparatuses respectively and causing predetermined display means to display the controlled images, on the basis of the voice transmitted by the plurality of transmission apparatuses." According to the present invention, when the voice added to the image changes, the image is considered important. Thus, the user can know which image is important by enlarging the image and/or changing the resolution of the image to high resolution.

Further, according to Claims 11, 34, 47 and 50, the control information for the transmission apparatus is returned to any of the plurality of transmission apparatuses selectively, on the basis of the voice transmitted from the plurality of transmission apparatuses. Accordingly, when one voice information is added to the image changed in the displayed images transmitted from the plurality of transmission apparatuses, the terminal which transmitted the changed voice information is

considered important. The user can know which image is important by requesting high resolution image and/or different kinds of images, such as a still image or a moving image, to the terminal which transmitted the changed voice and displaying the requested images on reception side.

The invention of Claims 53-68 and 73 is characterized by controlling a data amount of an image on the basis of voice transmitted from the plurality of transmission apparatuses. According to the present invention, since the quality can be changed to high quality for an important image and the quality can be changed to low quality for an unimportant image, it is effective when using the limited communication line.

Kitahara discloses to output voice of focus window in Column 16, lines 24-31. However, Kitahara does not disclose to emphasize the image according to the content of the voice as defined in claims 5, 6, 7, 28, 29, 30, 57-59.

Kitahara further discloses to switch output of the voice according to movement of focus by mouse in column 3, lines 34-41. However, Kitahara does not disclose to enlarge the image or emphasize the outline as defined in Claims 6, 7, 29, 30, 57, 58.

With respect to Claims 53-69, the Examiner pointed out that Kitahara discloses a memory in column 6, lines 4-24, and it is well known to control data amount of image to be transferred or displayed according to capacity of the memory. However, Applicant believes that the data amount of the image to be transmitted according to the voice is not controlled and it is not well known.

Additionally, Kitahara discloses to take a moving image by camera 908 in column 13, line 61 and column 14, lines 1-6. However, Kitahara does not disclose taking a still image and the moving image as defined in Claims 12, 13, 35 and 36.

With respect to Claims 10, 20, 33 and 43, Kitahara merely discloses switching focus according to movement of the mouse in column 16, line 39 to column 17, line 30. There is no relation between the focus and resolution.

With respect to all claims, Kitahara fails to control according to the content of received voice.

Therefore, neither reference discloses executing the display to operate the image pickup equipment included in the transmission apparatus.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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